



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-94-053
Friday
18 March 1994

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CONTENTS

18 March 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Cameroon

Kontchou Denies Report on Summit With Nigeria *[Paris International]* 1

Congo

France Grants 1 Billion CFA for Various Projects *[AFP]* 1

Equatorial Guinea

Opposition: Democratic Process, Rights Violated *[Libreville Radio]* 1

Gabon

Abessole Rejects Participation in Government *[Paris International]* 1

Rwanda

Rebel Radio Disputes Claims by MRND, PL *[Radio Muhabura]* 2

EAST AFRICA

Kenya

Journalists Charged With Writing 'Subversive Report' *[KNA]* 3

Somalia

Aidid Meets With Rival Ali Mahdi in Nairobi *[AFP]* 3

Twenty-Three Filipino Fishermen Held for Ransom *[Quezon Radio]* 3

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Meeting Between Mandela-Zweliithini Postponed *[SAPA]* 4

Zulu King on Postponement *[SAPA]* 4

Zweliithini Declares Sovereign Zulu Kingdom 4

'Thousands' Attend Speech *[SAPA]* 4

Rejection of Elections Reaffirmed *[SAPA]* 4

King Calls on Zulus To Defend Freedom *[SAPA]* 5

Zweliithini Not To Encourage Zulus To Vote *[SAPA]* 6

De Klerk on KwaZulu Situation, Visit to Soweto *[Johannesburg TV]* 6

ANC Not Informed of New IFP Initiative *[Johannesburg Radio]* 7

Freedom Front Releases Names of Top 10 Candidates *[Johannesburg TV]* 7

Freedom Front Seen as 'Last Resort' in Homeland Quest *[SAPA]* 7

CP: Freedom Front Entering Election for Personal Gain *[Johannesburg Radio]* 8

North-West Christian Democrats Withdraw From Election *[Johannesburg Radio]* 8

ANC's Nchhaus on ANC's Election 'Security Nightmare' *[SAPA]* 8

Democratic Party Election Strategy Detailed [SAPA]	8
PAC Alleges Funding Conspiracy To Ensure ANC Victory [SAPA]	9
Ex-Transkei Minister Appointed PAC East Cape Premier [SAPA]	9
Mangope Claims Warned Against Election Participation [Johannesburg TV]	9
TEC Rejects Proposal To Allow Prisoners To Vote [Johannesburg Radio]	10
Prisoners Protest [Johannesburg TV]	10
TEC Sets Up Committee To Oversee Public Funds [Johannesburg Radio]	10
Holomisa Reveals Report Implicating Security Officers [Johannesburg TV]	10
SAP Official at Center of Gun-Running Probe [WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN 18-24 Mar]	10
SAP Commissioner Responds to Accusations [SAPA]	11
Defense Minister on Reports SADF Aiding Angola [SAPA]	11
APLA Leaders Arrive for Meeting With SADF [THE STAR 17 Mar]	12
APLA Appoints Barney Msolo New Commander [Johannesburg Radio]	12
Brazilian Trade Delegation Meets Official [SAPA]	12
South African Press Review for 18 Mar [THE STAR 18 March, etc]	12

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Savimbi Addresses Nation on Peace Negotiations [Voz do Galo Negro]	14
Spokesman: More Concerned With Savimbi's 'Deeds' Than Words [Lisbon Radio]	18
Talks Deadlocked; UNITA Wants More Provinces [Luanda Radio]	18
UNITA Envoy to UN Decries MPLA Counterpart's Remarks [Voz do Galo Negro]	18
Dos Santos Swears In Government Officials [Luanda TV]	19
Parliamentarians Approve State Budget [Luanda TV]	19
Council of Ministers Meets 17 March [Luanda TV]	20

Mozambique

Renamo Fails To Attend CCF Meeting in Maputo [Maputo Radio]	20
Dhlakama Returns to Maputo, Asks for Assistance [Maputo Radio]	20

WEST AFRICA

Benin

Government Conditionally Accepts 2 Union Demands [Cotonou Radio]	21
--	----

Burkina Faso

Premier's Resignation Blamed on Discord With Workers [PANA]	21
Further on Political Upheavals [London International]	21

Cote d'Ivoire

Prime Minister Returns, Comments on Summit Meeting [Abidjan TV]	22
---	----

Liberia

Peace Process Reportedly 'More Chaotic Than Ever' [London International]	23
--	----

Mali

Public Administration Workers End Strike [Bamako Radio]	23
---	----

Niger

Rebel Attacks, Attempts To Secede Denounced [Niamey Radio]	24
--	----

Nigeria

Minister Urges Security Consciousness in Bakassi [Lagos Radio]	24
Diya on Support for Lifting Sactions Against Iraq [Lagos Radio]	24

Togo

Opposition Parties Reportedly Settles Differences [AFP]	24
RPT on Reported Offer of Assembly Speaker Post [Lome Radio]	25
CAR Denies Offering Post [Lome Radio]	25

Cameroon

Kontchou Denies Report on Summit With Nigeria

LD1703172394 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Let's now turn to Cameroon-Nigerian relations and the territorial dispute over the Bakassi peninsula. The Nigerian foreign minister was in Cairo yesterday. The Egyptian news agency MENA announced that a summit meeting between the Cameroon and Nigerian heads of state will be held in the Egyptian capital before the end of this month. This information provoked the amazement if not the anger of the Cameroon authorities. Listen to what the Cameroon information minister, Augustin Kontchou, said yesterday evening to Dominique de Courcelles:

[Begin recording] [Kontchou] Cameroon agrees and has already agreed to meet the Nigerian president in a neutral country, a meeting that will obviously have to be planned by the two countries. Cameroon initially thought of Togo, whose president, His Excellency Eyadema, visited Cameroon and Nigeria, and whose foreign minister also visited Cameroon and Nigeria. The door was not shut. Before announcing a meeting in such-and-such country, the two heads of state should first agree.

[Courcelles] Do you know if Hosni Mubarak has agreed to mediate?

[Kontchou] We have been approached neither by President Mubarak nor by any other Egyptian official, nor by any Nigerian official. Neither President Abacha nor any Nigerian minister approached us. We don't know the origin of this announcement of a meeting between His Excellency President Paul Biya and his excellency the Nigerian president. [end recording]

Congo

France Grants 1 Billion CFA for Various Projects

AB1603224794 Paris AFP in French 1209 GMT 14 Mar 94

[Text] Brazzaville, 14 Mar (AFP)—France has just granted Congo an aid of 1 billion CFA francs (Fr 10 million) as a backup measure for the 50 percent devaluation of the CFA franc on 11 January, the French Embassy in Brazzaville announced today.

This aid, which comes from the Special Development Fund, created by Paris following the devaluation, will help to fund sanitary, educational, and food projects and is capable of creating employment. The cost of each of these projects must not exceed 200 million CFA francs.

This financing is the first batch of an aid package to be given to Congo under the special fund. It will be jointly managed by the Congolese Government, the French

cooperation mission, and representatives of various funds who will also give their financial assistance.

Similarly, France has granted another aid worth 17.55 million CFA francs (Fr 175.47) to the Inspector General's Office to enable it to acquire equipment for the counting of civil servants as decided by the government in its bid to "control the work force of the civil service" which has 80,000 workers. On 10 March, government announced the expulsion of 8,050 state workers who were "in irregular situations."

Equatorial Guinea

Opposition: Democratic Process, Rights Violated

AB1703153094 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The opposition Union for Democracy and Social Development of Equatorial Guinea [UDDS] has once again expressed itself in very strong terms. It has called on the Spanish, French, and U.S. Governments, and all democratic governments not to receive the delegation which the Equatorial Guinean president sent out on a lengthy tour of Western capitals yesterday. It also called on them not to trust the demagogic speeches of the delegation as President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo continues to stifle the democratic process and daily violates human rights.

The opposition cited the closure two weeks ago of all opposition party offices, the multiple arrests and torture of opposition activists and members, and last week's assassination of Gendarmerie Corporal Eliza Ngomove Abata. Furthermore, UDDS appealed to the international community and Amnesty International for urgent intervention in Equatorial Guinea on behalf of political prisoners and for the respect of human rights.

Gabon

Abessole Rejects Participation in Government

LD1703165394 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Paul Mba Abessole, the Gabonese opposition leader, broke his long silence this morning. He has been in Paris since 9 March and it is in Paris that he has given a news conference. As you know, Gabonese Prime Minister Casimir Oye-Mba is currently trying to form a national unity government. Monique Mas asked Father Paul Mba Abessole if he or his friends are ready to participate. His answer was clear, to say the least:

[Begin recording] [Abessole] No, no, and no. Mr. Bongo is holding out a hand but he has no hand. Mr. Bongo is the head of state by force. We don't expect anything from the government that will be formed. We mobilize people to explain to them what democracy means. We explain to them respect for human rights. We are no longer bothered by what Mr. Bongo and his armed gang are

doing with the government. We are no longer interested. All this is in the past, as far as we are concerned; we will continue our work and take the risk. We will not back off.

[Mas] What are your next political steps?

[Abessole] The steps will be determined by the people. I have said that the people will soon feel hungry. How do you think hungry people can be restrained? They cannot. [end recording]

During his news conference, Father Mba Abessole said he is basically turning toward France. Monique Mas asked why he made such a statement.

[Begin Abessole recording] I had to say it this time because when the French mercenaries attacked my home, I started to doubt the idea that France was my friend; some people said look what your friends are doing to you. I said these people are individuals, they are not my friends. This does not mean that I would do anything to harm France or that I would accept that France does anything to harm me. We are just, correct, and fair. I am not asking France to help the opposition. France can help Gabon, particularly during its current impasse. The future of Gabon—France should understand and I think it has already understood this—resides with those who are fighting to attain power. [end recording]

Father Mba Abessole stressed that he has not taken refuge in France and that he will return to Gabon when he wishes to do so, despite the arrest warrant issued against him by the Libreville authorities.

Rwanda

Rebel Radio Disputes Claims by MRND, PL

EA1703215594 (Clandestine) Radio Muhabura in French to Rwanda 1815 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpts] You have undoubtedly heard of the deaths of five people during the night of 15 March as they were driving to Kigali from Kinyihira subprefecture, deaths that some circles are trying to describe from a certain perspective, notably the National Revolutionary Movement for Development [MRND] party through a communique broadcast yesterday on (RTL) radio and today on Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise. These reports strong and inflammatory language. [passage omitted]

Given this sudden reaction on the part of the MRND party and its political bureau, a few questions easily emerge. Why this swift condemnation of the Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] by the MRND—without providing a shred of evidence? Remember the Kirambo Massacre of December 1993, which the MRND attributed to the RPF even before investigators had been informed of the incident. How else can one interpret a reaction which emerges before information [words indistinct] more or less [words indistinct] the truth? Is it not a [word indistinct] which consists in trying to look for an alibi in order to carry out long-term objectives and which would not miss the slightest opportunity to reveal itself in broad daylight? Let us leave to Rwandans the task of analyzing this, in the same way I did. [passage omitted].

Kenya

Journalists Charged With Writing 'Subversive Report'

*EA1703173194 Nairobi KNA in English 1447 GMT
17 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Nakuru, 17 March (KNA)—Two journalists with THE STANDARD newspaper were today charged before a Nakuru court with writing a subversive report prejudicial to state security. Mr. James Ngumo, who is THE STANDARD bureau chief in Nakuru, and Peter Rianga, the paper's correspondent based in Kisii, appeared before the senior principal magistrate, Mr. William Tuiyot, but were not allowed to plead to the charge as consent to prosecute them has not been given by the attorney general. The court remanded them in custody until 31st March when they will renew their application for bail.

They were accused that with subversive intention they published a report in THE STANDARD Wednesday [16 March] edition alleging that tribal clashes had erupted in Molo division, during which nine people were killed and hundreds displaced, a report calculated to promote hatred and enmity between different communities. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Aidid Meets With Rival Ali Mahdi in Nairobi

*AB1703142594 Paris AFP in English 1348 GMT
17 Mar 94*

[Text] Nairobi, 17 March (AFP)—General Mohamed Farah Aidid and his main rival for power in Somalia, self-styled interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed, met Thursday [17 March] in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, UN spokesman George Bennet said. Bennet said the meeting was the first since December 1992 between the two men, whose rivalry has caused a serious threat of renewed civil war in Somalia following the current withdrawal of U.S. and other Western troops posted there.

Twenty-Three Filipino Fishermen Held for Ransom

*BK1803092094 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Text] Twenty-three Filipino crewmen of a Taiwanese trawler are now detained in northwestern Somalia. Somali militia forces threatened to kill them unless the Philippine Government pays ransom amounting to millions of pesos. Reports reaching the Foreign Office said the Filipino seamen were intercepted by the Somali militia while fishing illegally in northwestern Somalia. No names of the Filipinos are immediately available.

In his report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Ambassador to Kenya Edmundo Libid said he sought the assistance of the United Nations observers in Mogadishu and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nairobi for the release of the Filipinos, but this did not push through. The Philippines said no members in the UN peacekeeping forces in Somalia. [sentence as heard]

Meeting Between Mandela-Zwelithini Postponed*MB1703160394 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1551 GMT 17 Mar 94**[Report by D Isaacson]*

[Text] Johannesburg March 17 SAPA—The meeting between African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini has been postponed, ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said on Thursday. The two leaders were to have met in Ulundi on Friday [18 March] morning. Mr Mamoepa said more details would be announced soon.

Zulu King on Postponement*MB1803105594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1038 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Text] Ulundi March 18 SAPA—Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on Friday [18 March] expressed regret that he was unable to meet Nelson Mandela to clear the air between himself and the African National Congress [ANC] leadership.

The Zulu monarch said he hoped there was no substance to rumours of an attempt on Mr Mandela's life: "It would be rank foolishness for anyone to attempt to do such a thing. A thing like that would literally burn this country to ashes".

Friday's meeting between the two leaders was called off after the ANC said there were "firm reports" of a planned assassination attempt on Mr Mandela. "I hope that is no more than a scare story," said King Zwelithini.

"I would have liked to know from the president of the ANC what he knows about the Zulu monarchy, Zulu sovereignty and the kingdom of kwaZulu."

Addressing several thousand Zulu subjects in the kwaZulu capital of Ulundi, King Zwelithini dismissed the ANC's contention that the proposed meeting was initially arranged intended to be closed.

He said kwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi had indicated in correspondence with the ANC's Jacob Zuma that the meeting would be a "public discussion".

The king said he saw no reason why the meeting should have been private. "I am sorry that Mr Mandela was unable to attend today's meeting. I would have been grateful to know from him why members of his organisation have insulted me almost daily in radio programmes, speeches, and press statements."

King Zwelithini said he felt slighted by statements from Mr Mandela and other ANC members that he was being prevented by Mr Buthelezi from seeing Mr Mandela.

He said Mr Buthelezi had gone out of his way to ensure the meeting went ahead, "even by breaking protocol in giving unlisted telephone numbers to Mr Mandela".

The king said he had also been offended by the ANC's attitude to the kwaZulu legislative assembly [KLA]: "There can be no action against the KLA without it being action against me as reigning king".

Claims that Mr Buthelezi was his paymaster were offensive, said the king, who referred to monarchies worldwide which were supported by state funds. "What should be so exceptional about the Zulu monarchy in this respect. Why does the ANC hurl these insults at me?"

He said statements by ANC spokesmen that he supported the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] were lies, saying he had not attended a single Inkatha rally. Cultural gatherings which he attended with Mr Buthelezi were alleged by the ANC and the media to be IFP rallies, the Zulu monarch argued.

"I am sorry that the opportunity for the ANC to clarify these things in order to clear the air between me and its leadership was lost because of the Mandela assassination scare."

Zwelithini Declares Sovereign Zulu Kingdom**'Thousands' Attend Speech***MB1803082194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0705 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Text] Ulundi March 18 SAPA—Thousands of Zulus, many in traditional regalia, streamed into the kwaZulu capital Ulundi on Friday [18 March] morning for an address by their king, Goodwill Zwelithini. The gathering was to be a show of support for the Zulu monarch at his planned meeting with African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela.

On Thursday, the ANC cancelled the meeting, following claims of an assassination attempt on the ANC leader's life in the Inkatha stronghold of Ulundi. The ANC has requested the meeting be postponed to a later date.

Meanwhile, the kwaZulu government said on Thursday that Friday's meeting would go ahead "with or without Mr Mandela".

The Zulu king is expected to address thousands of his subjects outside the kwaZulu Legislative Assembly building later Friday.

Rejection of Elections Reaffirmed*MB1803103094 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1016 GMT 18 Mar 94**[Report by Craig Doonan]*

[Text] Ulundi March 18 SAPA—Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on Friday [18 March] called on all Zulus to unite and defend their freedom, saying elections under the present constitution would deny the Zulu nation its claim to sovereignty and self-determination.

Addressing several thousand Zulus in Ulundi, he reiterated he could not recommend to his loyal subjects that they vote in the April poll. "I call on all Zulus to unite in the name of the kingdom of kwaZulu. I call on all Zulus to fulfil their sacred duty to defend our freedom and sovereignty to anyone in southern Africa who dares to challenge it."

He alleged State President F.W. de Klerk's "contingency plans" for the Natal/kwaZulu region entailed the deployment of security forces "to clamp down on my people should they choose not to participate in the elections".

Elections under the interim constitution were "an immediate denial of our claim for sovereignty and self-determination".

"I find it quite impossible to recommend that any of my subjects who are loyal to the throne should participate in the forthcoming election, unless this matter (a sovereign Zulu kingdom) is settled."

The king said Zulus had gathered in Ulundi on Friday to proclaim before the world their freedom and sovereignty, and their unwavering will to defend these at all costs. He revealed that recent discussions between himself and Mr de Klerk on the Zulu king's claims had made little progress, adding the government had denied sovereignty to the Zulu nation and would not restore a sovereign kwaZulu kingdom.

"Under the terms of a final proposal of the South African Government, the Zulu nation and the kingdom of kwaZulu are left at the mercy of the unitary state established by the 1993 constitution. We have reached the end of a road and we are faced with the harsh reality that the SA Government cannot and will not facilitate the restoration of the sovereign kingdom of kwaZulu."

Zulus were faced with an historical dilemma of either succumbing and forever relinquishing their sovereignty or to take it upon themselves "and bring into existence what is ours, what belongs to our fathers and what belonged to our children".

The king alleged Mr de Klerk had threatened to deploy his security forces if Zulus did not vote in the April poll. "I protest for the betrayals that the Zulu nation have suffered from President de Klerk again and again."

King Calls on Zulus To Defend Freedom

MB1803120394 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1143 GMT 18 Mar 94

[By Craig Doonan]

[Text] Ulundi March 18 SAPA—Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on Friday [18 March] proclaimed a sovereign kingdom in kwaZulu/Natal and said his subjects would defend it at all costs. "We are here today to proclaim before the world, our freedom and sovereignty and our unwavering will to defend it at all costs," he told several thousand Zulus at a gathering in Ulundi.

The king's proclamation follows the opening of the 1994 session of the kwaZulu legislative assembly [KLA]. Speculation was rife in Ulundi that the KLA would formally proclaim an independent sovereign Zulu kingdom encompassing the entire kwaZulu/Natal region during the current session.

A senior kwaZulu government source said the king's announcement on Friday could be interpreted as a forerunner to an official proclamation.

King Zwelithini warned State President F. W. de Klerk earlier this year that he was preparing to promulgate a constitution for kwaZulu/Natal, unless his demands for recognition of his kingdom's sovereignty were met. KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi usually delivers a lengthy policy speech during the KLA session and the source said a formal proclamation could emerge during this speech, which begins on Monday.

In his address outside the KLA building, the king called on all Zulus to unite and defend their freedom, saying elections under the present constitution would deny the Zulu nation its claim to sovereignty and self-determination. He reiterated he could not recommend to his loyal subjects that they vote in the April election.

"I call on all Zulus to unite in the name of the kingdom of kwaZulu. I call on all Zulus to fulfil their sacred duty to defend our freedom and sovereignty to anyone in southern Africa who dares to challenge it."

He alleged Mr de Klerk's "contingency plans" for the Natal/kwaZulu region entailed the deployment of security forces "to clamp down on my people should they choose not to participate in the elections".

Elections under the interim constitution were "an immediate denial of our claim for sovereignty and self-determination". "I find it quite impossible to recommend that any of my subjects who are loyal to the throne should participate in the forthcoming election, unless this matter (a sovereign Zulu kingdom) is settled."

He revealed that recent discussions between himself and Mr de Klerk on the Zulu king's claims had made little progress, adding the South African Government had denied sovereignty to the Zulu nation and would not restore a sovereign kwaZulu kingdom. "Under the terms of a final proposal of the South African Government, the Zulu nation and the kingdom of kwaZulu are left at the mercy of the unitary state established by the 1993 constitution. We have reached the end of a road and we are faced with the harsh reality that the SA Government cannot and will not facilitate the restoration of the sovereign kingdom of kwaZulu."

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The king alleged Mr de Klerk had threatened to deploy his security forces if Zulus did not vote in the April poll. "I protest for the betrayals that the Zulu nation have suffered from President de Klerk again and again."

Zwelithini Not To Encourage Zulus To Vote

MB1703162994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1611 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by C Doonan]

[Text] Ulundi March 17 SAPA—Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini said on Thursday [17 March] he would not encourage his people to vote in the April elections under the current constitution, but stopped short of calling for a poll boycott.

Speaking in Ulundi at a luncheon after the opening of the kwaZulu Legislative Assembly, King Zwelithini said it was "foolishness" to believe there could be a free and fair election in kwaZulu "when the election is being foisted on people without their approval". "If anyone believes that the vast majority of blacks in the kwaZulu/Natal region want an election, they can only be right to the extent that those people have not heard their king and their traditional prime minister (Mangosuthu Buthelezi) say 'no' to their participation in the election."

The Zulu monarch said he had never attempted to dissuade any Zulu from belonging to the political party of their choice. However, if he called an imbizo (traditional gathering) at which Zulus heard him admonish parties which approved the interim constitution, "they will not vote in the elections". "The word will spread rapidly that this election is death to 'Zulu-ness' and that it must be resisted at all costs."

He added that Zulu nationalism, irrespective of party politics, would gather in strength through "rolling Zulu mass action".

Although stopping short of calling for a poll boycott the king said: "I will not encourage my people to enter the elections, enter the polling booths, and destroy the kingdom."

On his demands for a sovereign monarchy, King Zwelithini expressed his frustration at "tedious discussions, as though the South African Government had some kind of proprietary right to the soul of the Zulu people".

The king insisted his demands be dealt with immediately, saying he was not prepared to leave the future of the Zulu kingdom in the hands of a nationally-elected government. "The present constitution is totally unacceptable to me," he repeated, saying it would lead to the demise of the Zulu nation.

He commended Mr Buthelezi's initiative on international mediation in the constitutional impasse, but added: "As far as I am concerned, mediation must be pinned to the question of entry into elections."

De Klerk on KwaZulu Situation, Visit to Soweto

MB1703200994 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Netwo: k in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Reacting to the developments in the kwaZulu Legislative Assembly, State President F.W. de Klerk said he was worried about the volatile situation in the area, but that the government was prepared. He said he found Dr. Buthelezi's remarks upsetting. This report from Ronel van Zyl and cameraman Faan van Zyl.

[Begin recording] [Ronel Van Zyl] Speaking at a news conference in Randfontein, Mr. de Klerk rejected allegations that an uprising, similar to that which occurred in Bophuthatswana last week, was being planned for kwaZulu.

[De Klerk] We did not work together with the ANC [African National Congress] to topple ex-President Mynogope. The de facto situation was that President Mangope lost control. We went in there to stabilize the situation.

[Van Zyl] Mr. de Klerk gave the assurance that contingency plans had already been drawn up in the event of problems arising.

[De Klerk] I am happy that we have basically in place what we think might be needed to keep the situation under control should something erupt there, but it is a potentially dangerous situation.

[Van Zyl] Meanwhile, Mr. de Klerk, as leader of the National Party [NP], paid an historic visit to South Africa's biggest black township, Soweto. Residents and street vendors of Dube and Kwezi were caught unawares by the NP convoy. Mr. de Klerk made two spontaneous stops to canvass votes. No vivas, no NP posters, but also no sign of intimidation. An inquisitive crowd gave Mr. de Klerk a friendly welcome. He was evidently pleased by his reception.

[De Klerk] A kind lady gave me this apple. That is the spirit that we need in South Africa. I've been overwhelmed with your friendship.

[Van Zyl] Mr. de Klerk said the NP would fare much better in black townships than generally expected. He said he was jubilant about the results of a recent telephone canvassing campaign. He wrapped up his Soweto visit with a private lunch for NP candidates. Other stops were a breakfast meeting with business people and a visit to the Rand Afrikaans University. Students gave him a huge cake for his 58th birthday tomorrow. Another stop was soft selling the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, where he offered this advice.

[De Klerk] Think deeply and carefully and look very intently at the economic policy of the various parties.

[Van Zyl] Showing his concern for smaller businessmen Mr. de Klerk stopped at a the local shoe shiner, a necessity on the long and dusty road to election day. [end recording]

ANC Not Informed of New IFP Initiative

MB1803132994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has not been informed about a new initiative concerning the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] participation in the election as mentioned by State President de Klerk. ANC spokesman Cyril Ramaphosa said at a news conference in Johannesburg that he interpreted Mr. de Klerk's remarks about a new initiative as meaning that the government would try to keep the IFP and the kwaZulu government involved in the election process.

Referring to the planned meeting between King Goodwill Zwelithini and ANC Leader Nelson Mandela, Mr. Ramaphosa said it was absolutely essential that such a meeting should take place.

Freedom Front Releases Names of Top 10 Candidates

MB1703201594 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in
English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] General Constand Viljoen's Freedom Front has announced their candidate list for the April election. There were no surprises at the media conference in Pretoria today. Topping their national list is General Constand Viljoen, followed by Dr. Pieter Mulder, Dr. Corne Mulder, Mr. Willem Botha, Dr. Willie Botha, Mr. Joseph Chiole, and Mr. Piet Groenewald. Former CP [Conservative Party] Natal leader Carl Werth is number eight, and CP [Orange] Free State leader Abrie Oosthuizen number 10. Number 14 on the national list is former Afrikaner Volksunie [Afrikaner National Union] member Moolman Mentz. Thirty-one nominees appear on the Freedom Front's national list.

Freedom Front Seen as 'Last Resort' in Homeland Quest

MB1803072694 Johannesburg SABA in English
0001 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 17 SABA—The Freedom Front's [FF] participation in the elections was a last resort to avoid conflict and ensure a peaceful solution in the quest for a "volkstaat" [Afrikaner homeland]. CP [Conservative Party] MP Pieter Mulder said on Thursday [17 March].

The Front's final participation in the polls depended on an accord with the African National Congress [ANC] which involved that the recommendations of the so-called Volkstaat Council, provided for in Constitutional Principle 34, would be guaranteed, Dr Mulder said. Talks with the ANC on this matter would continue next week, he said.

Dr Mulder was addressing a press conference in Pretoria where the Front's candidates list, headed by FF leader Gen Constand Viljoen and containing 31 national legislature candidates and 219 for the provinces, was announced.

Dr Mulder conceded there was tension in right-wing ranks over participation in the elections. "We don't want to actually take part in the African National Congress elections but Constitutional Principle 34 (providing for a volkstaat council) gives us the opportunity to prove our support for an Afrikaner homeland."

Research had shown a large number of CP supporters would vote in spite of the CP executive's decision to boycott the polls, he said. On the split in CP ranks, Dr Mulder said Gen Viljoen and CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg held talks on Thursday, but he did not know the outcome. This follows Dr Hartzenberg's earlier announcement that any CP member belonging to another party and standing for the elections would automatically be suspended from the party.

The Front viewed participation in the polls as a plebiscite, said Dr Mulder. The Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] had earlier been demanding a white plebiscite or a referendum to determine support for the volkstaat and which people wanted to be included in the homeland.

A Freedom Front candidates' conference would be held on Saturday to work out a strategy. Gen Viljoen, as leader of the Front, would be the backbone of the campaign.

The Natal and Orange Free State CP leaders, Carl Werth (in position no 8) and Abrie Oosthuizen (no 10), and Transvaal deputy-leader Dr Pieter Mulder (no 2) and CP Cape deputy leader Mr W. A. Botha (no 4) appear on the national list. Dr Pieter Mulder's brother Corne is no 3 on the list, followed by CP MP Willie Botha (no 5) and CP MP Joseph Chiole (no 6).

Although the former Afrikaner Volksfront directorate of generals is understood to back the front, apart from Gen Viljoen only Gen Kobus Visser appears on the list at no 19. Gen Tienie Groenewald had decided not to make himself available as a candidate, Dr Mulder said.

Also on the list is South Africa's head of mission in Berlin Mr J. C. Landman, who is to resign from the post, and a former National Party MP for Springs, W. S. J. Grobler.

For the provincial legislatures Mr Werth heads the list in Natal, with Mr Abrie Oosthuizen (Orange Free State), Dr Pieter Mulder (Northern Cape), Mr P.W. Grobbelaar (Western Cape), Dr Willie Botha (Northern Transvaal), Mr Pieter Groenewald (North West Region), Dr W. J. van Niekerk (Eastern Transvaal) and Mr W.A. Botha (Eastern Cape).

CP: Freedom Front Entering Election for Personal Gain*MB1703160794 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Text] A war of words has developed between right-wingers opposed to, and those in favor of, participation in the election. The general secretary of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr. Lem Theron, has accused the MP for Schweizer-Reneke, Dr. Pieter Mulder, of seeking cheap publicity for the Freedom Front. He said those in favor of participation in the election had chosen a soft option and had entered the election in the hope of personal financial gain in what he called a communistic system of government. Earlier, the Freedom Front accused the CP of unilateral action, saying that certain individuals in the party had apparently found it necessary to put pressure on Dr. Ferdie Hartzenberg. According to reports up to 10 CP parliamentarians could be standing in the election for the Freedom Front.

North-West Christian Democrats Withdraw From Election*MB1803121794 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Text] The North-Western Christian Democrats have decided not to contest the election because of intimidation of prospective candidates. The party had been granted an extension until eight this morning to submit its adjusted list of candidates to the Independent Electoral Commission [IEC] but failed to do so.

The chairman of the party, Mr. Sampie Styger, said he'd received a telephone call from the party leader, Dr. Lucas Mangope, informing that it was not possible to draw up the list of candidates as people were afraid to stand because of intimidation. A spokesman for the IEC said the commission was still awaiting official communication from the party. Until then their initial registration would stand. If advised of the intimidation the IEC would ask their monitors to investigate and report to the commission.

ANC's Niehaus on ANC's Election 'Security Nightmare'*MB1803081994 Johannesburg SABA in English
2:49 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Text] Johannesburg March 17 SABA—The African National Congress [ANC] was faced with a security nightmare in the election, ANC Spokesman Carl Niehaus said on Thursday.

Not only are up to 3,000 foreign journalists expected in South Africa to cover the story, but the ANC had to contend with the generalized threat presented by the right wing.

Mr Niehaus said the ANC was especially concerned about safety on the election roadshows of ANC President

Nelson Mandela. Reports of Mr Mandela being conveyed from rally to rally at high speed had also caused concern. He denied that Mr Mandela's drivers were driving too fast and said journalists were creating problems by trying to beat Mr Mandela to his destinations.

He said speeds were dictated by traffic authorities seeing convoys through their areas. Journalists thronging around Mr Mandela to get off-the-cuff comments also created problems.

Mr Niehaus said the ANC would have press marshals in all the regions.

Democratic Party Election Strategy Detailed*MB1803072894 Johannesburg SABA in English
2:30 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Report by Dirk van Zyl]

[Text] Cape Town March 17 SABA—From being written off by opinion polls and many analysts as complete no-hopers a few weeks ago, the Democratic Party [DP] has received something of a morale-booster with sorties into the Boland and Southern Cape in the past five days.

DP leader Dr Zach de Beer and Western Cape premier-ship candidate Hennie Bester led the charge. The party faced the perception in these areas that the April elections contest was between the African National Congress [ANC] and the National Party [NP] only.

Mr Bester and his team of strategists devised a simple first-phase approach: Make the DP visible.

Dr de Beer, Mr Bester and other leaders boarded kombis [minibuses] and bakkies [pickup trucks] and slowly drove through countless suburbs, towns and hamlets with loudspeakers blaring "vote for the DP, the party of peace" and the party jingle "one nation, one future, one South Africa; DP will fight for your rights".

Pamphlets were dished out as widely as possible along the way and informal and formal meetings and gatherings were addressed.

On the whole the DP received a friendly—if at times bemused—reception, with its central peace and human rights message reciprocally acknowledged with two-fingered peace salutes.

The occasional bystander flashed an "up yours" and mouthed an accompanying expletive, and in the JCC squatter camp at Mossel Bay a man was restrained from throwing a stone at the procession. But in the final analysis, at least the party was "there" in hitherto largely virgin territory.

An ANC worker in George said the DP had blown away the previous well-ordered ANC/NP scenario. As a bonus, the DP received good television, radio and press coverage.

Outeniqua MP Chris April summed up the organisational dilemma by saying that under the previous constituency-based, winner-takes-all electoral system, the DP and its progressive predecessors were largely confined to privileged urban enclaves where there was no pressing need to build up organisational structures. Now, under proportional representation, every vote counted equally, even that of the solitary democrat in the tiniest hamlet.

But the organisational infrastructure is lacking and begs the question whether the next phase of the strategy can be effectively implemented before April 26.

The second phase is for party representatives and canvassers to move from street to street and door to door with more personalised messages and pamphlets. Coupled with this is the DP's comparative paucity of funds.

A top DP strategist sums it up best: "All we can really do is make as much noise as possible and hope for the best."

PAC Alleges Funding Conspiracy To Ensure ANC Victory

*MB1703141594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1303 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Report by P Bulger]

[Text] Johannesburg March 17 SAPA—A cash-strapped Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] was living a hand-to-mouth existence that would hamper its election campaign, PAC President Clarence Makwetu said on Thursday [17 March]. He accused Western governments and big business of withholding funding to the PAC to ensure an African National Congress [ANC] election victory.

Mr Makwetu said PAC officials from the president down had not been paid for nine months. "We are living from hand to mouth. Nobody from the president down has been paid. We need everything we can get," Mr Makwetu told a media conference.

He said arrangements had been made to restore the PAC's telecommunications—disconnected this week after a R94,000 [rand] bill went unpaid—but that "we must live up to these arrangements". "If we don't find the funds we might find ourselves in trouble," he said.

"Our members...are donating amounts of between R5 to R50, with a few giving us a few hundreds," Mr Makwetu said. "Big business and the overseas community is determined to ensure that these are one-sided elections. The unholy alliance between the international community and big business will deny this country the multi-party democracy overseas countries claim they enjoy."

He said the United States had given at least US\$10 million to the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party. "The PAC and other organisations have been ignored and our efforts to get the same kind of assistance has fallen on deaf ears," he said.

The Scandinavian countries had donated R25 million to the ANC. The French had also donated to the ANC. "However, despite this, we are not pulling out of the elections. We are not throwing in the towel and already creating excuses in case we lose. Despite our poverty, for this is what the struggle is about, we will make the necessary sacrifices for victory. Some of our posters are handwritten on cheap paper and done in townships and squatter camps for this is where the struggle starts in the first place."

Ex-Transkei Minister Appointed PAC East Cape Premier

*MB1803071794 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0022 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Report by D. Guy]

[Text] Umtata March 17 SAPA—Former Transkei Justice Minister Tsepo Letlaka accepted his position as Eastern Cape premier designate for the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] at a lunch in Umtata on Thursday [17 March]. "The Eastern Cape region has a new problem of having the boundaries imposed by the World Trade Centre process without consulting the people in the region," he said.

"Consequently the region is still divided on whether it should be divided into two—Border/Kei and Eastern Cape."

He said it also remained a sensitive issue whether the East Griqualand-Mount Currie-Umzimkulu area should be part of his region or kwaZulu-Natal.

Mangope Claims Warned Against Election Participation

MB1703195194 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Deposed Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope has claimed that the South African Government and the ANC [African National Congress] don't want him to participate in the elections. He was speaking at a news conference outside Mmabatho today.

[Begin Mangope recording] Freedom to participate in the electoral process may not be granted to me given discussions I've had with Mr. Botha and Mr. Maharaj, who informed me that my participation at this stage would perhaps not be possible. [end recording]

A short while ago a Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, who was present when the ANC's [African National Congress] Mr. Mac Maharaj and Foreign Minister Pik Botha held discussions with Mr. Mangope, said this was not the case. He said the message conveyed by both men to the former Bophuthatswana president was that if he wished to contest the election he was perfectly welcome to do so.

TEC Rejects Proposal To Allow Prisoners To Vote*MB1603084594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 16 Mar 94*

[Text] The TEC [Transitional Executive Council] has rejected a proposal by the Independent Electoral Commission that all categories of prisoners should be allowed to vote in the election. The ANC [African National Congress] and the SACP [South African Communist Party] voted in favor of the proposal but it was opposed by the NP [National Party] and the DP [Democratic Party].

Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa of the ANC said that the right to vote was a basic right, and that problems could be created by allowing only certain categories of prisoners to vote. Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said the government was strongly opposed to murderers and rapists being allowed to vote.

Prisoners Protest*MB1703202294 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Text] Chaos has broken out at the St. Alban's Prison near Port Elizabeth when protesting prisoners set at least 28 cells alight. The prisoners were demanding to take part in the April election. Prison services have blamed the South African Prisoners Organization for Human Rights for their call for mass action.

TEC Sets Up Committee To Oversee Public Funds*MB1803090594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 94*

[Text] The Transitional Executive Council's subcouncil on finance is to set up a control committee to ensure that public funds are properly spent and accounted for. This follows the news that four self-governing territories, Lebowa, Gazankulu, kaNgwane, and kwaNdebele have indicated they will overspend their budgets for 1993-94 by a total of 333 million rands. The subcouncil recommended approval of central government guaranteed over-draft facilities for a total of 478 million rands.

Holomisa Reveals Report Implicating Security Officers*MB1703205794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Text] Transkei leader General Bantu Holomisa said he is waiting for a report from the Goldstone Commission on the supply of weapons to the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] and alleged drug trafficking by high-ranking South African security officers. The report, which was to have been tabled with the TEC [Transitional Executive Council], has apparently been withheld by the commission pending further investigations.

[Begin recoding] [Correspondent Ami Nanackchand] The disclosures were made at a Natal University forum in Durban where General Holomisa said information implicating six generals of the security establishment had been supplied to the commission towards the end of last year. The classified information was obtained from General Holomisa's tested intelligence and sources. He said that Judge Goldstone had briefed President F.W. de Klerk at the end of February of the commission's findings confirming the allegations. Mr. de Klerk allegedly refused to release the information. General Holomisa said he was told on Tuesday [15 March] that Judge Goldstone would release the report to the TEC within 48 hours. However, the next day the judge apparently said he was making further inquiries.

[Holomisa] According to the latest information, or intelligence information, a classified one, he has briefed President de Klerk towards end of February and they have confirmed to him that indeed, your number two in one of your security forces and other generals are involved in drug trafficking as well as supplying weapons to Natal, to the IFP.

[Nanackchand] General Holomisa also denied claims by the National Party that he was hindering free political activity in the Transkei. [end recording]

SAP Official at Center of Gun-Running Probe*MB1803114694 Johannesburg WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 18-24 Mar 94 p 3*

[Report by Stephen Laufer and Paul Stober]

[Text] South African Police [SAP] deputy commissioner Lieutenant-General Basie Smit is at the heart of an investigation by the Goldstone Commission into a major gun-running operation to "one of the parties to the conflict in Natal".

The commission's report—which was due to be handed to President F.W. de Klerk on Wednesday, but was delayed at the last minute—could contain the hardest evidence to date of an organized third force within the security forces. The Goldstone report could blow the police general staff right out of the water, said sources inside the SAP. Several other police generals are understood to have been under scrutiny in the case, which has been under investigation by the commission since mid-February.

Sources close to the investigation expect De Klerk to move against Smit within days.

Smit is widely believed to have survived an attempt by De Klerk to purge the SAP of conservative generals in August 1992, because it was felt that Smit's previous positions on the highest state security councils had given him access to information which would be damaging to the government and SAP if released.

Smit is the former head of the 12,000-strong Crime Combating and Investigation Unit, which amalgamated the Special Branch with other detective branches of the SAP. As senior deputy-commissioner he is the number two policeman in South Africa after SAP Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe. He is currently in charge of staff functions in the SAP which include all administrative and auxiliary services. The other deputy commissioner, Lieutenant-General Johan Swart, heads the executive branch in charge of police on the ground.

Smit has headed the security police in the Northern Transvaal and was chief of the SAP Special Branch. He has been described as "harsh" and as having "political ambitions". Judge Richard Goldstone said on Wednesday the report into gun-running by senior figures within the security forces had been delayed because "the commission has been conducting further related inquiries."

But the delay may also have been the result of threatened legal action by some of the generals the commission was planning to finger, said one source. Revelations of a high-level gun-running operation and a plan to instigate political violence could help explain violent incidents which have cost thousands of lives in recent months.

Van der Merwe was in emergency meetings with members of general staff this week. Smit was said by his secretary to be "in very urgent meetings until Monday. He is in the commissioner's office." Swart was on annual leave for three weeks, according to his office. The Goldstone Commission is believed to have delayed its report in order to give De Klerk time to fire the SAP generals involved. "That would allow De Klerk to seize the initiative in time for the election," said one senior source.

ANC [African National Congress] intelligence is understood to have co-operated with the Goldstone Commission's investigation. A senior ANC source said: "This involves very high-level police officers, including generals." The investigation was made public early this week by Transkei leader Major General Bantu Holomisa, who is number 13 on the ANC's list of candidates for the national assembly. Judge Goldstone confirmed an investigation had been underway since mid-February, saying he had kept both De Klerk and Nelson Mandela informed throughout.

A highly placed source described one of the generals involved in the gun-running operation as "the second-in-command of one of the security forces", but refused to name him. The number two slot in the South African Defence Force, chief of Defence Force Staff, is currently unoccupied after the departure late last year of Lieutenant General Pierre Steyn. It is understood Holomisa forced the commission's hand over the results of the investigation because of continuing ANC suspicion that Goldstone is vulnerable to pressure from De Klerk.

SAP Commissioner Responds to Accusations

MB1803064894 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0637 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Pretoria March 18 SAPA—South African Police [SAP] Commissioner Gen Johan van der Merwe on Friday [18 March] said he had "no reason whatsoever" to believe that any senior member of the SAP was involved in gun-running activities. He was commenting on a report in the latest issue of the WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN that Deputy Police Commissioner Lt-Gen Basie Smit was at the heart of an investigation by the Goldstone Commission into a major gun-running operation by senior SAP officers.

According to the newspaper, the commission's report could contain the hardest evidence to date of an organised third force within the security forces. Gen van der Merwe said in a statement: "I am aware that Judge Goldstone is conducting an investigation into allegations that senior members of the SAP are involved in acts of violence and gun-running. However, according to my knowledge, these allegations are not in any way related to drug-trafficking.

"Personally I have no reason whatsoever to believe that any senior member of the SAP is involved in such illegal activities."

He said although he was aware of certain allegations being investigated by the Goldstone Commission against Gen Smit, he was convinced any proper investigation would clear him and that his honour and professional reputation would "emerge unblemished from this episode".

"I have already urgently requested the Goldstone Commission in writing to hold a comprehensive public inquiry into this matter. It is a matter of the greatest possible importance to both the SA Police and the future of the judicial system that this matter be dealt with in such a manner that justice is seen to be done and that the basic principles of justice are strictly adhered to," Gen van der Merwe said.

Defense Minister on Reports SADF Aiding Angola

MB1703192294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1902 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by J Rees]

[Text] Springfield, Orange Free State March 17 SAPA—South Africans aiding the Angolan Army in its war against the rebel UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement were doing so without the support, assistance or approval of the South African Government or defence force, Minister of Defence Kobie Coetsee said on Thursday [17 March]. "We do not tolerate dogs of war," he told reporters during an election campaign swing through the southern Orange Free State.

Mr Coetsee was reacting to earlier radio reports which quoted UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi as saying thousands of South African troops were aiding Angolan Government troops in the north-east of the country. Mr Coetsee said any SADF [South African Defense Force] members tendering their services to Angolan Armed Forces were in contravention of the Defence Act for showing allegiance to a foreign army.

APLA Leaders Arrive for Meeting With SADF

*MB1703144094 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
17 Mar 94 p 8*

[Report by Kaizer Nyatumba, political correspondent]

[Text] The South African Defence Force [SADF] has again postponed its meeting with the PAC's [Pan-Africanist Congress] Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA], whose top leaders are already in the country for the talks.

In a statement yesterday, the SADF said the meeting, scheduled for this week, would now take place next week, almost a month before the country's first all-inclusive election.

Sources said the PAC and APLA leadership was angry with the latest postponement of the talks, which were to have taken place as early as December, had it not been for a series of postponements.

The sources said this would put a severe strain on the organisation's suspension of its armed struggle and unnecessarily delay important discussions on the formation of a new army.

In its statement yesterday, the SADF said the meeting "will be exploratory in nature, aimed at determining whether there is scope and potential for further discussions."

The meeting, over whose venue there was still some haggling earlier this week, was to have been the first face-to-face encounter to take place in the country between the two old foes.

Both previous meetings were held outside the country.

THE STAR understands that the SADF wanted the meeting to take place in Pretoria, while APLA leaders—some of whom arrived in the country on Sunday—insisted on Johannesburg as a venue.

The top APLA leadership—including Dan "Romero Daniels" Mofokeng—have been in the country since APLA commander Sabelo Phama's funeral in Transkei last month.

Those APLA leaders who arrived in the country on Sunday are Mopedi Ntabeni, Willie Nkonyeni and Andile Motlhabane.

They have been granted limited indemnity.

However, THE STAR understands that they will soon be given complete indemnity.

APLA Appoints Barney Msolo New Commander

*MB1703185494 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 94*

[Text] APLA's [Azanian People's Liberation Army] chief of staff Mr. Barney Msolo has been appointed as commander of the organization. This follows the death last month of Mr. Sabelo Phama in a car accident in Tanzania.

Brazilian Trade Delegation Meets Official

*MB1603071294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2309 GMT 15 Mar 94*

[Text] Johannesburg March 15 SAPA—The first official trade delegation from Brazil met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Renier Schoeman in Johannesburg on Tuesday [15 March]. The Brazilians were led by the Minister of External Relations Mr Celso Marcos Vierra de Souza who said the visit heralded "the expansion and strengthening of trade between South Africa and Brazil".

The delegation is due in Cape Town on Wednesday, from where it will travel to Maputo for a brief visit.

South African Press Review for 18 Mar

MB1803140994

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Freedom Front Beneficiary of Conservative Party Votes—"The emergence, replete with lists of national and regional candidates, of Constand Viljoen's Freedom Front [FF] as a contesting party in the April election is a positive development," says a page-12 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 18 March. "It means that a substantial proportion of Afrikaner conservatives will pursue the establishment of a volkstaat [Afrikaner homeland] within legal parameters and, sensibly, seek to make use of the Volks [people] Council to advance their objective." However, the FF's participation in the election is "bad news" for F. W. de Klerk's National Party (NP). "Had the FF stayed out, many CP [Conservative Party] voters might have voted for the NP as the next best bulwark against ANC [African national Congress] domination. Similarly, in the absence of the FF, the NP is the most likely beneficiary of IFP voters who defy an Inkatha boycott call. The NP's loss will, however, be South Africa's gain. The more inclusive the election and settlement, the better."

BUSINESS DAY

Inkatha Leadership Not Searching for Solutions—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 18 March in a page-8 editorial warns that if President de Klerk is working on a new initiative with the IFP which might

lead to some kind of breakthrough, "he had better work skillfully, because the signals from Ulundi tell a different story." "The Inkatha leadership is not behaving in a manner suggesting it is searching for solutions and for a way to contest the April elections." It has "sabotaged" the meeting planned for 18 March between Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Nelson Mandela. The speeches at the opening of the kwaZulu legislative assembly on 17 March "were aggressive and threatening, despite the calls for peace. King Goodwill Zwelithini's words were in a similar vein." BUSINESS DAY says it seems Inkatha President Buthelezi "fears allowing the king to be exposed to Mandela's powers of persuasion." Buthelezi invited "all and sundry" to the Zwelithini-Mandela meeting, and "switched the venue from inside the legislative assembly buildings to the grounds outside, so that it would become an Inkatha jamboree of royals, chiefs and subjects, with Mandela uncomfortably at the centre." "Inkatha has made valid objections to the interim constitution, and its obduracy has won concessions. It could still win more through international mediation. But this does not mean it can continue holding the country to ransom."

RAPPORT

Parties Must Heed Bophuthatswana Warning—Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans of 13 March says in a page-20 editorial: "In the hurly-burly of events in Bophuthatswana this past week the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] stormed in with a performance

which, tragic ending and all, caused much harm not only to themselves, but also to others who do not associate with them but whose cause they claim to serve." "The far-right must give serious thought to this and several other issues; they will realize that the old South Africa is gone for ever." "But the finger of the Bophuthatswana mess also points accusingly at the ANC, its leaders, and its unbridled followers. In Cape Town Major General Bantu Holomisa declared gleefully that Bophuthatswana had received a stiff dose of 'Vitamin ANC', and that kwaZulu was next in line. His statement at an election event let the cat out of the bag. Worried South Africans now have reason to expect that the ANC 'vitamins' form part of its election plan for the rest of the country." "It is time," warns RAPPORT, "that ANC leaders get it into their heads that South Africa needs no revolution but an orderly transition to a new constitutional dispensation, managed under strict Western democratic standards. But the ANC leadership does not concern itself with the brain drain or the millions of rands fleeing the country. All one hears is the old refrain that whites need nor fear the ANC." "If the AWB is guilty of hot-headed stupidity, the ANC's plundering hordes are just as guilty. Mr. Nelson Mandela is not doing nearly enough to curb his party's lust for power and its arrogance." "If a firm grip is not forthcoming, there will be no escaping the violence of the past few days. Would that all political parties read what the warning finger of Mmabatho has written, and take it to heart."

Angola

Savimbi Addresses Nation on Peace Negotiations

MB1703084694 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[“Address to the nation” by UNITA President Jonas Malheiro Savimbi in Huambo on 16 March—recorded]

[Text] Dear Angolan people, compatriots, friends, and proven militants of our National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] party:

As divulged in our communique of 13 March, it was not possible to make this address on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the creation of the UNITA Party. That was because the party leadership and the UNITA team to the Lusaka peace talks were in intensive consultation at the time [words indistinct] to make this address.

Before anything else, I would like to express our satisfaction with the visit to Huambo on 12 March by Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola. His first visit here was on 8 July of last year. His presence in Huambo has allowed the UNITA Party leadership to delve deeper into problems that are yet to be settled, clear some doubts, and help create a climate of greater trust. After three days of intensive work, the UNITA negotiating team returned to Lusaka with more open views and a wider mandate. This was so that those frameworks which have not been defined yet can be expanded and to help search for lasting peace for Angola as a whole. Such lasting peace must be based on accords to be signed and which must be respected, thereby ensuring that the specter of war does not return to darken the lives of the Angolan people.

In this message [words indistinct] UNITA militants inside and outside the country, I would like to reaffirm the spirit of (?Mangai), who created (?his) own space within the national context. UNITA represents the interests and aspirations of the poorer sections of the population.

After 28 years of resistance, which took on the [words indistinct] in different times and circumstances, we have been able to gather experience and trust. We have never stopped believing that some day our country would be totally free and that the Angolan people would be able to take their country's fate in their own hands. We have had to make immense sacrifices over the course of these 28 years. We have been in detention at times. We were detained and killed during the colonial period. We were detained and killed during the Russian-Cuban invasion of our country. As I make this address, I remember many of the martyrs of those times. Most important and most missed among them were UNITA Vice President Jeremias Kalandula Chitunda, UNITA Secretary General Mango Alicerces, and Engineer Elias Salupeto, UNITA representative in the Joint Political and Military Commission, CCPM.

There have also been traitors and treacherous ploys over the course of these 28 years. Nonetheless, UNITA remained calm, confident, and united. I would like to congratulate the party's militants and encourage them to continue our resistance, wherever they may be doing their duties, whether they be in the diplomatic, administrative, military, or political sectors. No one thought that our party would still be standing after the events of October and November 1992. Not only has it done so, it has also [words indistinct] confident, serene, and following its program for real democracy in the country that will allow all Angolans to participate in, contest, and criticize the regime in a constructive manner.

We have defeated the skepticism that had spread into our ranks at the time. Furthermore, we have built the determination and trust to continue our work with a view to occupying the place that is rightfully ours in history and in the world. It has always been the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola's [MPLA] goal to destroy UNITA. In that way, over the years the MPLA has tried to create divisions, a so-called democratic UNITA, and parallel organizations. All those efforts have been in vain. The (?efforts) (?made) in Luanda to create another UNITA leadership instill no fear in us. They have happened before, they happen today, and they will happen tomorrow. Nonetheless, there is only one UNITA that can implement the program drawn up 28 years ago and which has not been [word indistinct] yet.

Our people are scattered throughout the country. Our roads are full of holes. Our homes have been destroyed. Civic sense has been destroyed. The black market [words indistinct] a lack of responsibility in the [words indistinct] and the salaries themselves. All this allows us to say that the goals we have set ourselves are very far from attainment. We still have fields to till and seeds to plant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say that, within the general framework of the resolution of the Angolan problem, the UNITA leadership could never agree to independent UNITA deputies in the National Assembly. No UNITA deputy to the National Assembly today was elected on his or her own merit. All UNITA deputies were elected on a single list under the flag of the Black Cockerel.

Once the current conflict has been resolved, UNITA will turn up at the National Assembly with its 70 deputies intact. Obviously, there will be contacts with the government, with the leadership of the National Assembly, and with the courts in Luanda. UNITA will not agree to have dissidents as its deputies in the National Assembly. Whoever speaks out against the UNITA leadership and its program is promptly expelled from the party and is not entitled to talk on its behalf.

For a long time now, we have heard shouts, stupid remarks, talk of connivance, and hasty compromises, so we have arrived at the conclusion that the Portuguese

proverb that dogs may bark, but the caravan will continue on its way, applies here. There can only be one program, one leadership, and one ideology within that party and they must represent, in the first analysis of the party's creation, in the context of the frustrations experienced by millions of Angolan people who also aspire to a dignified way of life. They, too, want the right to (?education), health care, work, and dignity. They want access to political posts on the basis of their capacity and competence.

There is not and there will not be in our country—unless we want to imperil social equilibrium—castes and strata, so that some are eternally in power and others must eternally obey. We have an inclusive and global concept of our condition as Angolans. We do not look at race, ethnic background, or religious affiliation. We must make joint efforts to overcome the backwardness legated us by Portuguese colonialism. With our efforts and with international cooperation, we must strive to overcome the nefarious effects of this war that has been going on for more than 30 years.

Whatever the version put out by the regime, whatever the version of the international observers, ultimately God and men will correctly judge the real reasons which prompted the eruption of an even bloodier war after Angola had had its first multiparty elections. It is not enough for the regime to hold on to legality. It is not enough for the international community to hold on to the declaration of Madam Anstee. Facts are emerging daily and they prove that there were irregularities in Angola's first democratic multiparty elections.

However, in order to overcome a situation created by foreigners, and because Angolans are joined by the same feelings of unity and desire to work together, UNITA has decided to move beyond that critical stage. We must look to the future with hope because the current conflict can be resolved. It can come to an end. The tragedy that has beset the nation can be overcome.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say that UNITA has been deliberately misunderstood because what was intended then is what has become a fact in this country today. The press and the international community were ready to award victory to those they felt could serve alien interests best. God and the people know that this is not what the Angolan people feel. It takes years—perhaps five, perhaps 10, perhaps 20, perhaps 50. As I deliver this declaration to the Angolan people, I am moved by the profound conviction that the truth is bound to come out some day. The truth will emerge from Angola itself. It will come out of the mouths of the Angolan people. It will come out of the mouths of those who have lied. The matter belongs in the past now, but it has not been forgotten and that is because the UNITA leadership has decided to take a step forward. We [words indistinct] waiting for Angola, we do not want to be responsible for those who have connived in acts of

historic irresponsibility that will lead to foreign intervention in our country, thereby permitting an even more ingrained neocolonization within the context of neodemocracy.

We want to assure all Angolan patriots, whether they be inside or outside the country, that all will be done to ensure that the Lusaka peace talks will be fruitful. It is no exaggeration to say that certain Portuguese Government officials were accomplices in the Bicesse Accord conspiracy and that today they are already voicing their skepticism and making discouraging remarks so that the Lusaka peace talks may not succeed. (?We, in) UNITA, will do everything to ensure that the Lusaka peace talks are successful. In addition to the pressing reasons of the need for peace in Angola and of the need for the Angolan family to come together again, there are two other weighty reasons in terms of our African philosophy for us to do so: the talks are being held in an African country, and the representative of the UN secretary general is also an African. We want to show the world that Africans can settle their problems without placing themselves in the hands of alien mediators.

Some Portuguese Government officials are already saying that the Lusaka peace talks are destined to fail. They continue to wage an intense campaign for other countries to sell weapons to the MPLA so that it can destroy UNITA militarily. We have always taken the care and followed the moral obligation to distinguish between Portuguese Government officials and the Portuguese people. We know that the Portuguese people have lately participated in a campaign to collect humanitarian aid for Angola. We want to thank that gesture because it is typical of the Portuguese people. They show solidarity with other peoples, notably with the Angolan people, with whom they share (?historic), cultural, linguistic, and (?blood) ties.

Nonetheless, we must say that there are those here and there who are trying to score political dividends out of that humanitarian gesture. It is no secret to anyone today that the current Portuguese Government is trying to encourage rivalries between the Portuguese people and Angolans of different skin hues living in that country. Such behavior is completely atypical of the Portuguese people. Once the scars of colonialism had dried, the Portuguese people were always able to enjoy open relations with the people of the Lusophone African countries. Neither did they look at race, religious faith, or background.

Today, though, doctors, engineers, and other skilled cadres who have not been able to fit in with the present order of witch hunts, detentions without trial, and other problems, and have sought refuge in Portugal, now see themselves reduced to working as manual laborers. They are shown no respect whatever for their studies, often done at Portuguese universities. Such feelings are alien to Portuguese culture and to Portuguese history and they can only stain those government officials who endorse such behavior.

There are still important organs of Portuguese sovereignty, with enough love for Portugal and for people of other countries, that can act against such behavior, which we regard as irrational and reprehensible. We place our trust with them. The great non-colonial Portugal of the past can then [words indistinct] to relate with Angolans of all opposition political parties, first and foremost among which is UNITA.

We would like to convey our gratitude to all organizations like the Portuguese Forum for Freedom and Democracy in Angola, the Portuguese Forum, and other organizations that have always sought balanced relations between the Portuguese people and the Angolan people. We are confident that all [word indistinct] schemes to make business, some of which is dirty business, will end up failing and the good Portuguese people will see them for what they are.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say that there is no link whatever between the South African and Angolan problems. As it is, in a not too distant past many used to link Namibian independence to the problems that UNITA would have, to survive. Namibia has achieved its independence and it has been encouraged to show hostility, but UNITA has continued its resistance regardless. What is more, it has done so without showing hostility toward Namibia and without needing Namibia.

South African Government officials are well aware that the only thing they are doing for Angola is to send thousands upon thousands of South African mercenaries to fight Angolan patriots. That is what is happening in Lunda Norte Province at this stage. Those South African mercenaries will be put on the run in Lunda Norte. Those who are able to do so will have to return to their fatherland [words indistinct] the areas controlled by UNITA.

Within the framework of the Lusaka Accords, the country will voluntarily be returned to government structures and institutions. This will happen in terms of accords, but never in the wake of the use of force, even if such force is used by mercenaries.

It is very fallacious of a Portuguese Government official to say that UNITA will disappear once the South African problem is settled. Instead, I am convinced that the ministerial posts occupied by such officials are going to disappear. No foreign affairs ministers can stay on in their posts forever. There have already been so many and there are bound to be others. UNITA will continue to exist, though, because it represents the Angolan people's aspirations. May it be so.

I would also like to comment on the calls that are constantly being made to UNITA and the government that we must reach an agreement as soon as possible. We want to thank the Angolan and Sao Tomean Catholic bishops for their recent peace call. Such calls are [word indistinct] and they carry profound moral values. We, in UNITA, are sensitive to such calls. Neither the Catholic Church nor other churches in Angola, nor civilian

society, nor anybody else should ignore the tragedy that is destroying our country today. Everyone should look for peace [words indistinct] concerning the Lusaka peace talks, we have wished success to the UNITA team.

It must show a spirit of openness. It must try to clarify doubts and, above all, it must work to help clarify the legal and political framework in terms of which the Angolan opposition can claim its rights. To be in the opposition does not mean connivance with the regime, or the legitimacy of the party as an opposition party will be lost, nor does it mean that the opposition must have a consistently destructive approach. We believe that, given the conditions in which it was born, democracy in Angola needs the cooperation and help of all so that there can be a balance. If we fail to do so, we will be (?paving the way) for a one-party democracy.

Before anything else, we want to ask the representatives of the government to understand that democracy can only happen within a framework of tolerance. Police hunts, detentions without trial, encouraging cadres in other parties to rebel against their own leaders, and the illegal use of the media to depict people as the regime wishes, are actions that neither strengthen democracy nor can [words indistinct] whoever may have won, however that victory may have been achieved, should show generosity. Whoever has lost, never mind how, should show resignation and look for other ways to continue the struggle so that Angola can one day reemerge united in its desire to work, to have dignity, and to command respect among its people and from the international community.

We would also like to thank the international community for having taken note of the shortages facing the Angolan people. It has made extraordinary efforts to bring food, medicines, clothing, and comfort to the Angolan people. The Angolan people will never forget such gestures of great solidarity.

On behalf of the UNITA leadership, I would also like to reiterate our complete trust in UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye, as an African, as an international official, and as a mediator. May our message convey to him our profound respect and our desire to cooperate. We would also like to reiterate our trust in the observers in Lusaka—namely, the representatives of the United States, Portugal, and the Russian Federation.

The Portuguese ambassador has shown extraordinarily good manners and the kind of understanding that is typical of a true Portuguese citizen who defends, in addition to the institutions he represents, the need for peace in Angola and for good general coexistence among all people, so that Angola as a whole can cooperate with Portugal.

We would also like to convey our gratitude toward the government of President Frederick Chiluba. Over the course of the months that the Lusaka peace talks have

been held, his participation in the process has been discreet but incisive. He has not been giving advice to all and sundry.

UNITA hereby undertakes that, once a clearer and more comprehensive framework has been found, we will not be leaving Lusaka without an accord. That will not be just for us to show our respect for that independent African nation. It is also for us to show that Zambia has played an important role in restoring harmony to life in Angola. The peace talks are to enter their most critical stage and it is very important that there should be more direct contacts between the negotiating teams of the government and UNITA. Though we are very grateful for the active roles that have been played by the mediator and the observers, ultimately it is with the MPLA that UNITA will have to coexist. It is inside Angola that we will have to coexist. The Angolan people will need to show (?much courage) to help our efforts. It is important that we create [word indistinct] lose fear. It is important that we devise formulas that strengthen pardon rather than amnesty.

Within this framework, I think it is absolutely contradictory that the government should still be holding the bodies of former UNITA officials, as well as women and children in its jails. Even if it all had to do with human and patriotic feelings, still you could not explain why the bodies of UNITA Vice President Jeremias Kalandula Chitunda and Engineer Elias Salupeto Pena should still be held by the government at a time when the peace talks are about to reach their end.

Furthermore, the media in Luanda and the world must help create a climate of understanding so that we can work to strengthen feelings of national solidarity. We have always backed Angola. Personally, I have on several occasions told UNITA militants, our armed forces, our sympathizers, and the Angolan people at large that I shall never leave Angola. I shall never go into exile. I shall never run away. I shall do my best to fulfill the tasks that the party's militants award me inside the country that saw my birth. Should God so desire and should God grant me life to do so, I shall do everything in my power to give my very best contribution.

I also deeply believe that man's destiny is in the hands of God. Let God make of me and of us all what He pleases. However, I shall never run away from Angola. Let the UNITA militants learn from these words that I shall stay because I have to stay. Let my opponents also detect in my words a profound conviction that any ploy to take me abroad will be useless. I shall never leave this land that has seen the deaths of my parents, my grandparents, and my nephews, often in tragic circumstances. I shall stay because it is my duty to do so.

I would also like to sincerely greet my colleagues in the movement's leadership, who have stayed put in their posts despite enticements, threats, uncertainties, obstacles, and shortcomings. All those who believe in the

Black Cockerel flag—whether they live under very precarious conditions like those in Jamba or under slightly better conditions—should take it for granted that there will be a day when our party will find itself in a better position. Then, we will all reflect about what we have gone through. Moreover, with an open mind, absolute understanding, and pardoning we will be able to look into the future with confidence. Nothing has been lost. Let us accept the prevailing conditions with the same [words indistinct] attitude that we have followed over the past 28 years. We have said in the past that personal resentment hinders our sight because the finishing line is looming on the horizon.

Likewise, I wish to send my heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost their beloved ones over the past years and those who have been left homeless. Whenever possible, we will make their worries our own. We will share with them the little we have. Until peace is restored in our land once and for all, and until such time when men may live freely and safely, [words indistinct] with intelligence and capacity fulfill the tasks that have been assigned to them.

Now I wish to address the Angolan opposition political parties in general. UNITA acknowledges that it has made mistakes in dealing with the question of opposition. UNITA acknowledges that when the president of the Republic, who is the chairman of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], created a forum to meet the opposition parties, UNITA could have taken part provided that the atmosphere prevailing then did not make us feel suspicious and distrustful. Now that all that has been overcome, we are in a position to share experiences, instead of frustrations, knowledge, instead of resentment so that there should be in Angola a genuine opposition that could serve as a yardstick to balance the [words indistinct].

There is no democracy at all when the regime tries to bribe opposition members. There can only be a future to the opposition if at this final juncture the regime clearly defines the framework within which we can evolve, and give our contribution so that there is real democracy and a state of law in Angola.

Many of you were prey to the regime's arbitrary attitude. Let us not repeat the same mistakes. UNITA is willing to make a concerted effort and to enter into full-fledged consultations so that Angola may one day experience an atmosphere of trust and freedom in a country that we love so much, and in which we can move in and out at will. This applies for those who wish to move in and out. For those like myself who want to stay [words indistinct] our mountains, valleys, rivers [words indistinct] so that Angola may be a fatherland that embraces all its sons.

Rulers ought to be sufficiently wise to avoid being selfish on matters of public interest. Only Angolans who have been reunited can make Angola a meaningful country at home and abroad. One we respect each other at home,

and are united when it comes to mutual respect, pardoning, and trust, we will also be respected by the outside world because there will be no factions or divisions, and because our domestic problems will be resolved by ourselves.

It could be that the few years since we have been independent are not long enough for us to be able to be fully experienced in political and administrative matters. Like I said in my last address to the nation, the Portuguese Government never allowed Angolans to actively participate in our country's political affairs [words indistinct] colonial past. Yet, [words indistinct] an atrocious suffering, we have been forced to create [words indistinct] to accept dialogue [words indistinct] as the only way of resolving our differences which should not have been the reason for us to take up arms. The current generation of rulers have a major responsibility of not creating a culture of violence. Instead, they should create a culture of tolerance through which we will all find our own place. Accordingly, UNITA is ready to cooperate.

Angolan men and women, patriots and friends, and tested militants in our party, the future is possible, peace is in sight, and it is our duty to understand each other. Only thus will we be able to speak of a wealthy Angola. May God bless you all and protect our land.

Spokesman: More Concerned With Savimbi's 'Deeds' Than Words

LD1603202094 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos's spokesman, Aldomiro da Conceicao, has reacted to Jonas Savimbi's address on the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] radio station, VORGAN, by remarking that UNITA's deeds do not match its words:

[Begin recording] [Conceicao] As far as UNITA—and, in particular, its leader—are concerned, we have learned to pay more attention to what is done than to what is said. Savimbi has accustomed us to bombastic statements designed to impress public opinion, and his actions after such statements are totally at odds with them. Naturally we cannot agree with many of his opinions on the present political situation in Angola and also with regard to Portugal. At any rate his speech did not impress us, and did not even have any bearing on the negotiations, because we are less concerned with words than with deeds and with the stances adopted by UNITA both at the Lusaka negotiations and very especially on the battleground.

[Unidentified correspondent] Dr. Aldomiro da Conceicao. Regarding Lusaka, Dr. Savimbi has expressed confidence and the belief that a lasting peace agreement will be struck soon. Do you share Dr Savimbi's optimism?

[Conceicao] We have always described ourselves as being moderately optimistic. We have some hope that Lusaka may indeed bring a peace agreement to Angola. [end recording]

Talks Deadlocked; UNITA Wants More Provinces

MB1803124394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent Pedro Manuel in Lusaka]

[Text] The framework of the negotiating round is once again complicated. By yesterday not all details of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola's [UNITA] response had been released to the public. Today it is said that besides the three provinces offered by the government, UNITA also wants to have full governing authority over Benguela, Huambo and Bie Provinces. This is not all, Jonas Savimbi's organization wants more than 20 districts and about 50 communes in other provinces. A source has said what UNITA wants is to create a good support base to fulfill its former aim of taking over power.

On the government portfolios, yesterday it was said that UNITA had retracted its position and today the contrary has been said: Jonas Savimbi's organization wants the leadership of five or six key portfolios as ministers or deputy ministers. Analysts say this is an indirect way of demanding power-sharing. The government has assessed UNITA's stand, and today it did not even reply in writing. It only reminded the mediators and UNITA itself that the offer is not negotiable. Either UNITA accepts and the talks continue, or it refuses and everything is over. In other words, the government does not agree with UNITA's stand. Now, the mediators and observers are once again in the midst of a crossfire.

UNITA Envoy to UN Decries MPLA Counterpart's Remarks

MB1803081494 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] Reports from Lusaka, where the peace talks are being held, say that the atmosphere is already better than it was before UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye's recent visits to the cities of Huambo and Luanda. The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] and Luanda teams have not had any direct meeting yet but they are scheduled to hold one today. Meanwhile, Angola's real opposition has expressed satisfaction with UNITA President Dr. Jonas Malheiro Savimbi's call for a greater participation in the country's political life.

Moreover, the UN Security Council met on 16 March and decided to extend the UN Angola Verification Mission's mandate until 31 May. Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party ambassador to the United Nations,

made some rather contradictory remarks on that occasion, this at a time when the two sides are working to restore peace to Angola as soon as possible. Dr. Marcos Samondo, UNITA ambassador to the United Nations, had this to say about Mbinda's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Samondo] The way he spoke, Mbinda was using again the language of (?cold war), thereby giving people the wrong idea. What is happening is that the two sides really want to wind up the Lusaka peace talks as soon as possible so that we can enter a new stage of national reconciliation and unity.

[Unidentified correspondent] Through Dr. Jonas Savimbi, its leader, UNITA had said last week that peace and national reconciliation would happen and that the Lusaka peace talks would be fruitful. Such a statement surely takes into account the government's position, too. However, the position conveyed by the government in New York yesterday seems to suggest that the government may be following a different path.

[Samondo] On one hand, there is the hope that something is going to happen. On the other hand, what you see is that some official makes a statement, like the one made by Mbinda at the United Nations yesterday [words indistinct] and then there is the military question: at this stage, there are major movements under way by the government forces in northern Angola in general, and in Bengo Province in particular. Government forces have also been moving in Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul Provinces, in northeastern Angola, as well as in the center and south of the country. In view of that, what message are we giving the international community now?

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Mr. Marcos Samondo: neither side appears to be really interested in bringing peace to Angola in the near future. Each side appears to continue to believe in military victory (?even though) they affirm no military victory is possible.

[Samondo] I disagree. With all respect, I would like to convey my disagreement because [words indistinct] UNITA [words indistinct] it is UNITA that is making the greater concessions. We have made concessions in the military sphere, we have made concessions concerning the police force, and now [words indistinct] discussing issues pertaining to central and provincial government [words indistinct] (? to give us two) ministries, but it did not (?accept) [words indistinct] at the hotel. When we talk about the provinces [words indistinct] the government is not even willing to give us those provinces [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Dos Santos Swears In Government Officials

MB1803101194 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Head of State Jose Eduardo dos Santos today swore in new government members recently appointed

in presidential decrees. The president of the Republic swore in Alvaro Arnaldo Craveiro as Finance Minister for which he was appointed in a presidential decree. Jose Anibal Lopes Rocha was sworn in as territorial administration minister, Albino Malungo was sworn in as assistance and social reintegration minister, while Jose da Rocha Sardinha de Castro will occupy the post of youth and sports minister. Henrique dos Santos was sworn in as deputy attorney general. Agostinho Domingos has the post of assistant attorney general for the criminal and penitentiary sector. Joao da Cunha Caetano is assistant attorney general responsible for general legal enforcement. General Antonio dos Santos Franca Ndalu has been sworn in as special adviser to the president of the Republic, while Justino Fernandes is the new governor of Luanda Province. Honorato Lando and Joao Filipe Martins were sworn in as roving ambassadors. Alves Primo was sworn in as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Angola to the Kingdom of Belgium, while Bento Ribeiro has the post of Angola's ambassador in the Republic of Zimbabwe. In the presence of several government members, the recently sworn in members swore to observe the constitutional law, and abide by the laws of the Republic. When raising his champaign glass, the president of the Republic wished success to the recently sworn in government members and hoped that they will in fact serve the interests of the people.

His Excellency Engineer Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Republic of Angola today issued seven decrees, in line with recommendations by the prime minister, in which he dismisses under the terms of paragraph B of the Article 66 of the Constitution, Deputy Territorial Administration Joao Baptista (Kusuma), and Eduardo Severino de Morais, public administration, employment and social security deputy minister. Jose Pedro de Morais was appointed minister of the recently created Ministry of Planning and Economic Coordination. Joao Baptista (Kusuma) and Eduardo Severino de Morais have been appointed deputy ministers of the same portfolio. Antonio Gomes Furtado who, until now has been national director of treasure, and member of the Angolan Airlines Administration Council was appointed deputy finance minister, while Guilherme do Espirito Santo Carvalho was appointed deputy sports minister. Office of the president of the Republic, Luanda 17 March 1994. (endall) 171930 ej/vasconcelos bv071803.023 MSF11803.050 18/1011

Parliamentarians Approve State Budget

MB1803112094 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The National Assembly today approved the State General Budget, with 92 percent of votes in favor, 14 abstentions and no vote against. With this approval the government's socioeconomic program's chapter is closed. The draft law on the State General Budget has been discussed since yesterday in the Congress Palace,

and this morning it was approved by parliament. The government spent the day responding to concerns raised yesterday by the deputies, and afterwards the State General Budget was approved. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Meets 17 March

MB1803101494 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers began a meeting in Luanda today to assess the socioeconomic, political and military situation of the country. The meeting is being chaired by President of the Republic Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The Council of Ministers was briefed on the peace process and political and military situation. The legal decree establishing the Planning and Economic Coordination Ministry, as well as the decree that alters the function and composition of the Council of Ministers Standing Commission were assessed. Other points discussed were the decree drafts and the respective salary tables of the adjustment of salaries of civil servants and parallel entities, as well as salary adjustment of the personnel from the military administration organs. Council of Ministers Secretary Carlos Feijo had this to say at the end of the meeting.

[Begin Feijo recording] A session of the Council of Ministers which consisted essentially of three parts has just ended. In the first part the council assessed the military situation and the peace process whose negotiations are underway in Lusaka. We assessed the negotiations. In the second part we assessed a draft document creating the Ministry of Planning and Economic Coordination as an organ which will be charged with drafting medium and long term policies, and will coordinate the implementation of the socioeconomic plan, and will necessarily be related to the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank with a view to considering the plan as an indicative element, and not as an imperative one, as has been the case in our planning law. The third part dealt with the approval of the government's program in which it is stipulated that in March there would be salary increases, and this is what was done. The salary adjustment of the civil servants and personnel from the military administration organs, as well as internal order was approved. [end recording]

Mozambique

Renamo Fails To Attend CCF Meeting in Maputo

MB1703125394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Once again, the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] failed to attend a Cease-Fire Commission [CCF] meeting this morning. That CCF meeting is now scheduled to be held on 21 March. The Renamo team did not even bother to provide the government with any explanation for its absence. The CCF was to discuss the evolution of the troop confinement and demobilization processes. It was also supposed to discuss the possibility of [words indistinct] selection of war materiel to be used by the new army.

Dhlakama Returns to Maputo, Asks for Assistance

MB1703143194 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama yesterday once again called on the international organizations to assist Maringue residents who are experiencing famine because of the shortage of rains and an outbreak of rodents. Dhlakama said Maringue residents are experiencing a bad period and if there is no urgent assistance, many people will die.

The Renamo leader was speaking to reporters after landing at the Maputo International Airport, coming from Maringue, his movement's general headquarters. Afonso Dhlakama said the World Food Program [WFP] will stop assisting Maringue residents as of next month.

This morning Radio Mozambique contacted the WFP to hear its stand in view of the statement made by the Renamo president. WFP Director Philip Clark has denied the allegations and says that civilians in areas under Renamo control have been receiving assistance without restrictions. [passage omitted]

Benin

Government Conditionally Accepts 2 Union Demands

AB1703210094 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-
Television du Benin Radio in French 0615 GMT
17 Mar 94

[Statement on cabinet meeting held in Cotonou on 16 March; read by government spokesman Theodore Holo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the report presented by the minister of civil service and administrative reform on the ongoing negotiations with labor unions, in particular, concerning the two demands submitted by the unions to the government delegation, namely: 1. The coupling of promotions and an upward review of the cost of a living allowance and; 2. An increase in family allowances; the cabinet reaffirmed the government's position, which had already been communicated to union leaders on 15 March. First, the government intends to meet the above-mentioned two union demands within the limits of an increase in the wage bill, to the tune of 9,225,328,610 CFA francs. Second, the government will proceed with the necessary calculations for the breakdown and distribution of this wage bill, with the participation of union representatives designated by the unions themselves. The cabinet calls on all unions which are to participate in the calculations to get in touch with the paymaster general's office at the Ministry of Finance first thing tomorrow, 17 March. Moreover, the cabinet has decided to submit an enabling bill to the National Assembly as soon as possible to permit the government to pay immediately to workers those financial benefits accruing from the salary readjustment measures, and to hold payment of those relating to the payment of the actual [words indistinct] pending the passing of the 1994 budget, in line with the provisions of Article 102 of our Constitution. [passage omitted]

Burkina Faso

Premier's Resignation Blamed on Discord With Workers

AB1703160094 Dakar PANA in English 1410 GMT
17 Mar 94

[Text] Ouagadougou, 17 March (PANA)—The resignation of the Burkinabe prime minister, Youssouf Ouedraogo, was caused by the failure of negotiations with workers following the devaluation of the CFA franc in January, observers said Thursday [17 March] in Ouagadougou. They point out that even if he was supported by President Blaise Compaore, he was not able to meet the demands of the trade unions.

The workers were demanding better living conditions, a substantial salary increase and maintaining prices at a reasonable level. In spite of the signing on Saturday of a joint communique between the government and the

unions which increased salaries, the trade unions are still threatening to strike because they consider the salary increases insufficient. Some of the trade union leaders who signed the accord later rejected it saying that concessions made by the government were not enough.

Youssouf Ouedraogo, who resigned on Wednesday night, is portrayed in his country as a brilliant technocrat, with a solid academic, administrative and political experience in Burkina Faso. Nominated prime minister on 16 June 1992, Ouedraogo, an economist, has been a lecturer at the Economic Sciences Institute of the University of Ouagadougou. A member of the People's Assembly (ADP-Parliament) since the last general elections of 1992, Ouedraogo was planning and popular development minister (September 1984-August 1987), cooperation and planning minister (November 1987-April 1989) and president of the Economic and Social Council (April 1989-May 1992).

During the general convention of the Organisation for Popular Democracy Labour Movement (ODP/MT), which has majority in Parliament with 79 seats Ouedraogo who was not an active political leader, was elected senior vice president of the party, on 19 April 1993. His nomination as prime minister raised many controversies in the ODP/MT. He reshuffled his government two times during his two year term. The first was on 3 September 1993 and the second on 19 January 1994.

Further on Political Upheavals

AB1703192394 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There have been some political upheavals in Burkina Faso. The country's leader, Captain Blaise Compaore, has dissolved the government and the prime minister, Youssouf Ouedraogo, has resigned. The prime minister has been on the job since June 1992, but it seems he might have been giving jobs to people that ruling party militants did not approve of. On the line to Ouagadougou, Dan Isaacs asked our correspondent, Pierre Kazoni, if any reasons have been given for the prime minister's resignation:

[Begin recording] [Kazoni] Well, no official reasons have been given, but according to the general public it is said that the pressure put on him to resign came from the militants of the majority party, the ODP-MT [Organization for Popular Democracy-Labor Movement], which is also President Compaore's party. He is also accused of not being [word indistinct] with conviction, and that he does not appoint the militants of the ODP to top positions. Well, these are the unofficial reasons, according to the people here, that have motivated his resignation.

[Isaacs] So is it simply that the prime minister has been appointing ministers who are not from the majority party, the ODP-MT, he has been giving posts to other people?

[Kazoni] Yes. I think the ODP-MT, which is the majority party, they want everything for themselves. It was said clearly during the National Assembly, in the National Assembly's session here that the majority in the government should rule and those who are not in the government should oppose. This was said clearly by a member of parliament who is a militant of the ODP-MT. But this is not the vision that Youssouf Ouedraogo has. He is a technocrat and he believes in the right man on the right job.

[Isaacs] From what you are saying the prime minister, Mr. Ouedraogo, sounds less like a technocrat and more like somebody who really is his own man and wanted good men in good positions. Was he a popular prime minister?

[Kazoni] You may say that he was popular in a sense, in a sense that he achieved something during his term of office, and the World Bank and the IMF have openly declared their satisfaction with the way Mr. Ouedraogo handles the SAP, the Structural Adjustment Program.

[Isaacs] So will the new government, when it has been announced, be totally dominated by the majority party, the ODP-MT? Is that what we can look forward to now?

[Kazoni] Very much, because since it is the outcry of the majority. I think Compaore may probably listen to them. But it does not really rule out completely that Compaore will put in somebody who is not probably a member of the majority party. This is possible. We can always expect something like that. [end recording]

Cote d'Ivoire

Prime Minister Returns, Comments on Summit Meeting

AB1803084394 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan returned from Ouagadougou yesterday, where he participated in an economic summit devoted to the devaluation and the West African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA]. Pascal Amani Kouadio was at the airport yesterday and reports the following:

[Begin recording] [Kouadio] The prime minister arrived at Port-Bouet airport at 2100 on board the presidential plane from Ouagadougou, where he attended the UEMOA summit. He was welcomed at the airport by government officials. The prime minister spoke about the Ouagadougou summit:

[Duncan] The Ouagadougou meeting examined three issues: first, the devaluation; second, UEMOA; and third, the West African Economic Community [CEAO]. Concerning the devaluation, two months after this measure it was needful for the heads of state and the governments of the UEMOA area to review issues relating to this measure, to find out about the various measures being taken by each state regarding the devaluation, to find out how negotiations with the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF, and the World Bank are progressing, and how our cooperation with France on this matter is proceeding.

On this matter, I can say that generally things are progressing well. With the exception of only one state, all arrangements with the Bretton Woods institutions will be finalized by the end of this month. It is important to stress this. I would also like to state that inflation has been relatively well controlled and in line with projections. Nevertheless, the heads of state present at the meeting expressed the desire for a number of actions to be carried out. First, communication must be intensified among the populations to explain the devaluation better and to indicate—and this is important—that it is an opportunity for our countries to forge ahead. We would like to underline here that this is the final devaluation. There is no question of a second devaluation, because no indicators point to this. It is important to state this and I believe all the heads of state and participants, including the Bretton Woods institutions and certainly France, have taken good note of this.

Also, the backup measures announced during the signing of the various agreements are proceeding on schedule in all the states. It was therefore agreed to have regular meetings of this kind so that UEMOA partners can coordinate their actions. It was also decided to hold a meeting at the latest in June with members of the Bank of Central African States, so that all the members of the franc zone countries can coordinate their positions. It is also important to stress that trade in goods and services within the UEMOA must be developed, and this permits me to go to the second point, which is the issue of the UEMOA.

As you are aware, the UEMOA agreement was signed at Dakar on 11 January, but due to the devaluation the signing of the UEMOA agreement was somewhat relegated to the background. At the Ouagadougou meeting, the heads of state have, so to say, very much insisted on the need to proceed with integration, and it was therefore advocated that all the member states, except one—for reasons peculiar to this state—ratify the UEMOA agreement by 30 April. With regard to the state concerned, because of internal reasons that ratification is expected to take place before 30 June, so that we can have a basic legal instrument which would permit us to forge ahead toward integration. This is an important chance we can seize, and as we have made considerable progress on West African issues, we intend to move quickly to reinforce solidarity within the UEMOA member states.

The last issue examined concerned the West African Economic Community. It was difficult for two economic bodies to coexist in the area. The CEAO heads of state conference has therefore decided to dissolve the CEAO and has instructed the council of ministers to see to the liquidation of this body and take measures to settle issues relating to its personnel. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Liberia

Peace Process Reportedly 'More Chaotic Than Ever'

AB1703193194 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 17 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The peace process in Liberia seems more chaotic than ever. The transitional government has still not been seated, with continuing squabbles over who should have what job in the government. Yesterday, in Monrovia, Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] tried to force the pace and get its nominees installed in their ministries. The operation failed, and the nominees have now left Monrovia and gone back to NPFL headquarters at Gbarnga. The whole thing was apparently based on a letter from ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] chairman, President Soglo of Benin, passed through UN Special Representative Trevor-Gordon Somers, urging the Transitional Council to give the NPFL the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, but there have been claims that the letter was, in fact, a fake. On the line to Gbarnga, Robin White asked Momolu Sirleaf, who would have taken the foreign affairs ministry, if the Soglo letter was a forgery:

[Begin recording] [Sirleaf, laughing] I think that you ought to talk to Gordon-Somers, you know, because he sent the letter to everybody, including the Council of State. You should ask him whether he forged it, and, if he did, why did he do it? (I am saying) this goes to the very credibility of Gordon-Somers, the UN, and ECOWAS. You ought to talk to Gordon-Somers and to President Soglo because they can't play with the Liberian people's lives like this. We want the government to be seated. We want the Cotonou Accord to be implemented. We hope that people would stop all of this tomfoolery and let the Liberian people have peace.

[White] Why are you in such a rush? Why are you trying to force the pace?

[Sirleaf] Am I in a rush, Robin? The Liberian people have been at war for four years. Please, I believe they are tired. I am not in a rush. I think the Liberian people want to put their lives together, and each time they try to do this politicians come out with all sorts of lies and dash their hopes.

[White] Couldn't you hang on just a couple of days, instead of just storming out in a huff, while you settle this matter.

[Sirleaf] No, no, no. We haven't stormed out in a huff. I told you our delegation is there. It is not safe, but our delegation is there. We have a team that is remaining there, and we intend to stay in the process. We will never pull out. In fact, we know that this is what they want to happen, but we are not going to pull out.

[White] Mr. Sirleaf.

[Sirleaf] Yeah.

[White] Mr. Sirleaf, sir, you think you should be the foreign minister, that is right?

[Sirleaf] Well, I mean, it is not whether I think I should be the foreign minister. I am the foreign minister, and I am going to work to make sure that democracy is established in my country.

[White] Yes, but would you be prepared to give up that claim in the interest of peace?

[Sirleaf, laughing] But why would I want to give up something in the interest of peace? I am a man of war? Have you known me to be a man of war?

[White] Yes, but if it would solve the problem for you to step down, would you do that?

[Sirleaf] But why would I be a problem?

[White] Well, because other people don't want you there as the foreign minister. They'd rather have their own man in. Would you be prepared to step down in the interest of peace?

[Sirleaf] I wonder who doesn't want me there. You mean the people that have tried to install a puppet government? Now, listen to me. All along we've been saying ECOWAS, you know, we've been talking about ECOWAS. ECOWAS has written and said that they have no objection, and the Liberian people have not elected any government. So who is the one that is going to object? [end recording]

Mali

Public Administration Workers End Strike

AB1703192794 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 0700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The 48-hour strike called by the trade union committees of the public administration establishments ended yesterday at midnight. A skeleton staff was maintained at the various establishments. This strike followed the failure of negotiations with the government.

Niger

Rebel Attacks, Attempts To Secede Denounced

AB1703134094 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Government communique issued on 16 March; place not given; read by government spokesman Mactar Bello]

[Text] Rebels intercepted a seven-vehicle convoy on the Agadez-Tahoua road in 14 March, subjected the passengers to torture and undignified treatment, and robbed them of all their property. During the same period, similar crimes were perpetrated on the Agadez-Arlit road. The unfortunate result of these latest attacks are as follows: one dead, four seriously wounded, more than 1 million CFA francs extorted from the victims, and various goods worth several million CFA francs stolen. Vehicles were seriously damaged and peaceful citizens were harassed and humiliated. Taking stock of this situation, one realizes the numerous crimes perpetrated by the rebels against the people of Tillabery, Tahoua, and Agadez.

The ignominious acts the rebels are continuously perpetrating are in line with the objectives of their rebellion which include the revival of ethnic hatred in order to divide Niger our beloved motherland. Though determined to solve this issue through dialogue, the Government of the Republic of Niger will not tolerate these deliberate attacks on goods and on the physical and moral integrity of people. In any case, it will not accept the antinationalist objective that is being pursued.

The government hereby calls on all patriotic and active forces of the nation to mobilize themselves so that through cohesion, efforts, and sacrifices the Niger people, in unity, will be able to impede and foil the rebels' attempts at secession.

Nigeria

Minister Urges Security Consciousness in Bakassi

AB1803085594 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] The Federal Government has asked the public not to panic because of the intervention of France in the border dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. The minister of information and culture, Professor Jerry Gana, gave this advice at a news conference in Abuja. Gbenga Onoiga was there:

[Begin recording] [Onoiga] Recounting efforts made by the Federal Government to resolve the dispute amicably, Prof. Gana reiterated the readiness of government to protect the lives and property of Nigerians. He urged the people, particularly those living in eastern states and the border areas with Cameroon, to be security conscious and be ready in the event of any problem arising from the Bakassi conflict. Prof. Gana also advise the public to

ignore some pamphlets now in circulation aimed at misinforming them about the dispute.

[Gana] We appeal especially for Nigerians living in the eastern states and the border areas with Cameroon, to be particularly security conscious. It is therefore my responsibility to plead with the Nigerians to ignore a number of assaults which we have reason to believe are [words indistinct] people outside Nigeria who are trying to confuse Nigerians and knock their heads together in order to provoke internal division at this very critical time.

[Onoiga] The minister said the pamphlets, which tended to [word indistinct] to tribalize our religious sentiments, were completely false. He said the minister of foreign affairs was to prepare a document concerning a full historical record on the Bakassi issue. The document, Prof. Gana explained, will be used by his ministry to educate the public on the facts of the matter. He maintained that the present administration will not make the mistake of the past by abandoning Nigerians to molestation and humiliation by neighboring countries, particularly Cameroon. In the words of the minister, since Nigerians live in Bakassi, they must be protected by the Nigerian State. [end recording]

Diya on Support for Lifting Sanctions Against Iraq

AB1703204394 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Nigeria has pledged to support any move by the United Nations Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The chief of general staff, Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya, gave the pledge today in Abuja when he received an Iraqi delegation led by Dr. (al-Bara) [as transliterated]. Gen. Diya said Nigeria would support any action that would facilitate the lifting of the sanctions, particularly in the areas of food supply and health care. He expressed the belief that Iraq had made genuine efforts and complied with UN resolutions. The chief of general staff commended Iraq for the understanding it had shown toward Nigeria's current political problems.

Earlier, Dr. ('Ali al-Bara) had briefed the chief of general staff on efforts Iraq had made so far to fully comply with the UN resolutions. He disclosed that virtually, all Iraqi nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare programs had been destroyed under the close supervision of UN experts.

Togo

Opposition Parties Reportedly Settles Differences

AB1703145094 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Lome, March 17 (AFP)—Togo's opposition parties which fell out over power-sharing after winning a majority in the first free general election in 30 years have patched up their quarrel, they said here Thursday [17

March]. The Action Committee for Renewal (CAR), 36 seats, and the Union for Democracy (UTD), seven seats, said in a joint statement that they expected to form a new government, given that they held an absolute majority of parliament's 81 seats.

Under the Constitution, military ruler General Gnassingbe Eyadema, in power since 1967, has to pick a prime minister from the parliamentary majority. He began consultations with all party chiefs Tuesday. The Togolese People's Rally, Eyadema's mainstay for a quarter of a century as the only legal party, won 35 seats in last month's two-round poll.

UTD leader Edem Kodjo, once a close associate of Eyadema until they fell out in the 1980s, caused consternation in opposition ranks when the Supreme Court issued the official results Monday. He repudiated a mid-election pact with the CAR, suspicious that the bigger movement intended turning his group into a mere appendage. Nobody could claim the 41-seat majority in Parliament without his party, which had a "pivotal" role and intended exercising it, Kodjo insisted.

CAR chief Yao Agboyibor had hailed the election results as a victory for the people and said he was sure Eyadema's consultations on the appointment of new government leaders "will lead to choices in line with the voting. Any other outcome would be a scandal." Agboyibor, 51, a lawyer, is widely expected to be named as new premier.

RPT on Reported Offer of Assembly Speaker Post
AB1703203994 Lome Radio Lome in French
1230 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Ayite Gachin Mivedor, chairman for the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] electoral campaign, met the media this morning to shed some light on revelations made yesterday by the Togolese Union for Democracy [UTD]. According to these reports, Action Committee for Renewal [CAR] lawyer Yaovi Agboyibor allegedly offered the post of National Assembly speaker to the presidential group. Let us listen to Mr. Mivedor:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Chairman, in a clarification note to the media, the UTD disclosed that the CAR and RPT had allegedly held contacts. Thus, we learned that after the publication of the results by the Supreme Court, the CAR proposed the National Assembly speakership to the presidential group. Can you tell us what actually happened?

[Mivedor] Yes, that is true. The CAR has made us that proposal, and we thank it for taking such an initiative, but as far as our group is concerned, we consider that by arrogating the post of prime minister to itself and allocating the other posts to other political parties, the CAR has implemented a policy which reminds us of what is called politicking, and this takes us many years back into the past. This is why the RPT has rejected this spontaneous proposal by the CAR concerning the

National Assembly speaker's post. It rather hopes that new orientations for the political and economic reconstruction of the country will spring out of discussions among the various political parties who were involved in the elections. The RPT calls on everyone for moderation, so that a serene dialogue can be established among the various political parties. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Does the RPT have certain demands to make concerning the formation of the new government?

[Mivedor] The RPT is not making any demands. It adhered to the proposal made by the head of state a long time ago to form a broad-based union government. As far as the type of democracy that we know in our African countries is concerned, the RPT is for a participatory democracy, as opposed to an exclusionary democracy, that is, you lose and I win. The RPT is for the joint management of public property, which helps ensure national unity and the country's development. That is why the RPT is for a broad-based national union government. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Concerning the new political situation in the country, the RPT issued the following statement:

The RPT received from Mr. Agboyibor himself proposals relating to the distribution of responsibilities within the future government. The RPT thanks Mr. Agboyibor for his initiative, but wants all political parties participate in the negotiations.

[Signed] For the RPT secretary general: Daouko Pere, RPT deputy general secretary.

For its part, the CAR denies it has proposed the National Assembly speaker's post to the RPT, contrary to what was said. However, the party is happy about the fact that in a statement published on 16 March the CAR and the UTD reaffirmed that they constitute an absolute majority within the National Assembly and intend to jointly handle, along with the other democratic forces, the victory of the Togolese people for the actual advent of the change so called for by the people.

CAR Denies Offering Post

AB1803105494 Lome Radio Lome in French
1900 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Statement issued by Yaovi Agboyibor, Action Committee for Renewal chairman, in Lome on 17 March; read by CAR Secretary General Dodji Apevo]

[Text] In a statement broadcast yesterday the Togolese Union for Democracy [UTD] announced that the Action Committee for Renewal [CAR] has offered the role of National Assembly speaker to the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT].

At a meeting held yesterday, the eight opposition political parties which took part in the February legislative elections deplored the fact that such a statement had been made at a time when the democratic forces are

closing their ranks. The UTD chairman, therefore called on the radio and television officials to suspend the rebroadcast of the statement and the CAR agreed to withdraw the denial it prepared in reaction to the UTD's statement.

However, in the national radio's 1900 newscast, the RPT mentioned the UTD's statement, so the CAR deems it necessary to inform the public that at no moment has it proposed the role of National Assembly speaker to the RPT. It is hard to believe that the CAR, which is striving to safeguard the cohesion of the two political parties to which the people granted the absolute majority during

the recent legislative elections, would offer such a crucial post as that of National Assembly speaker to the RPT.

The CAR expresses satisfaction with the statement published yesterday by the CAR and the UTD reaffirming that the two parties constitute the absolute majority within the National Assembly and that they intend to work alongside the other democratic forces to manage the Togolese people's victory in order to bring about the change that is so much desired by the Togolese.

The CAR strongly reiterates its appeal to the forces of change to be extra vigilant to avoid falling victim to the divisive maneuvers of the advocates of the past order.

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